



# You are a Pretty Big Deal

**One year ago today we were given an opportunity.**



**State of Tennessee**  
**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 289**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 322**

**Representatives Hawk, Casada, Favors, Crawford, Byrd, Whitson, Cavitt, Hazlewood, Carter, McCormick, Holsclaw, Rogers, Terry, Thompson, Hardaway, Zachary, Staples, Camper, Curcio, Akbari, Butchery Brooks, Parkinson, Powers, Williams, Mark White, Daniel**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 1210**

**By Senators Norris, Gardenhire, Harris**

**AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 1 and Title 55, Chapter 9, Part 6, relative to the transportation of**

**PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

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**First Steps on the  
Road to Excellence**

# Mission

- To provide safe, reliable, and efficient transportation services for all children with a focus on continuous improvement that supports positive learning experiences.

# Vision

- To be recognized as an integral member of the school community; a model of excellence in safety and reliability with zero student injury accidents.



# PC289 Regional Training





# PC289 Regional Training



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**Monitoring for  
Compliance**

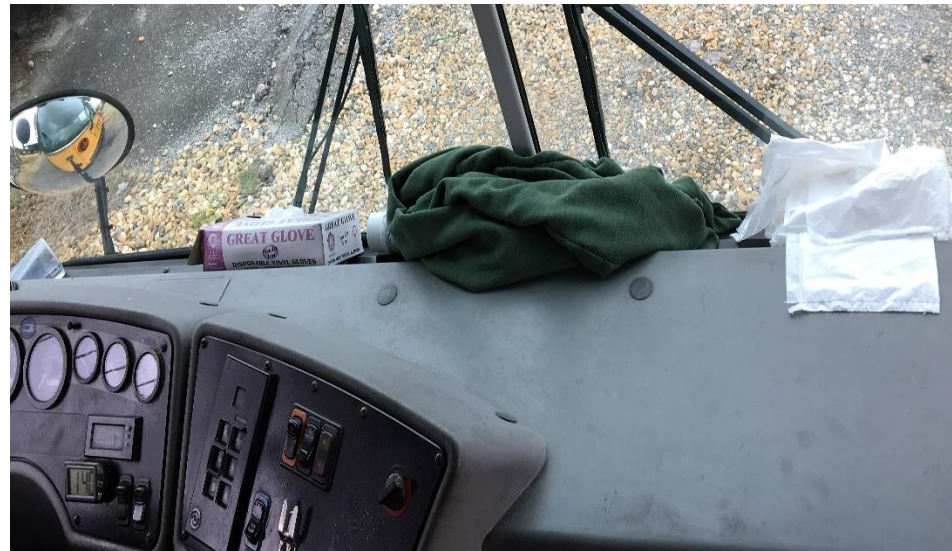


# Monitoring Successes





# Monitoring Opportunities



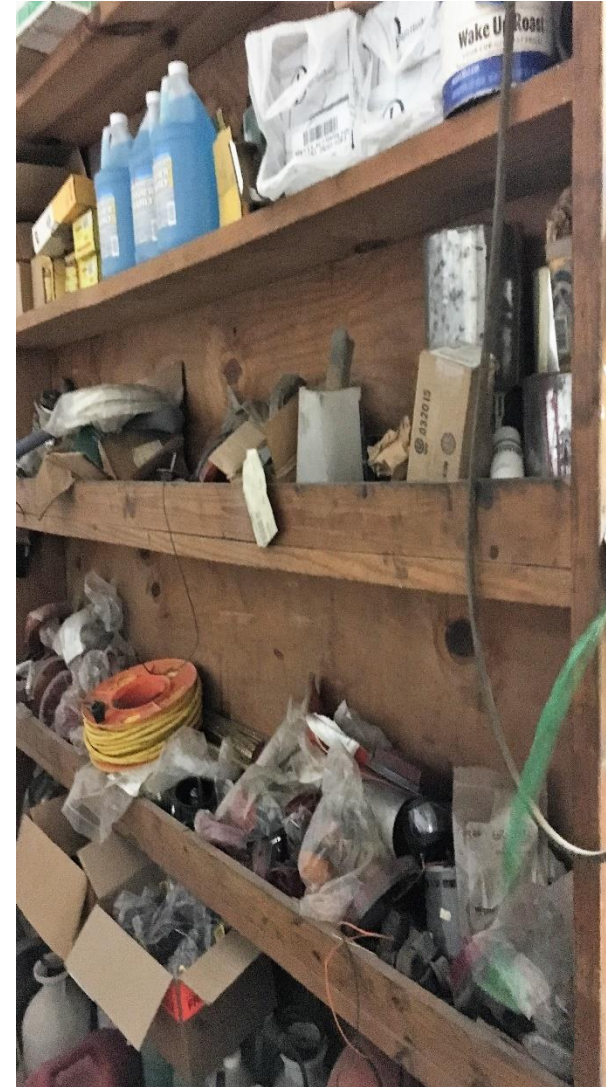


# Monitoring Successes





# Monitoring Opportunities





# Monitoring Successes

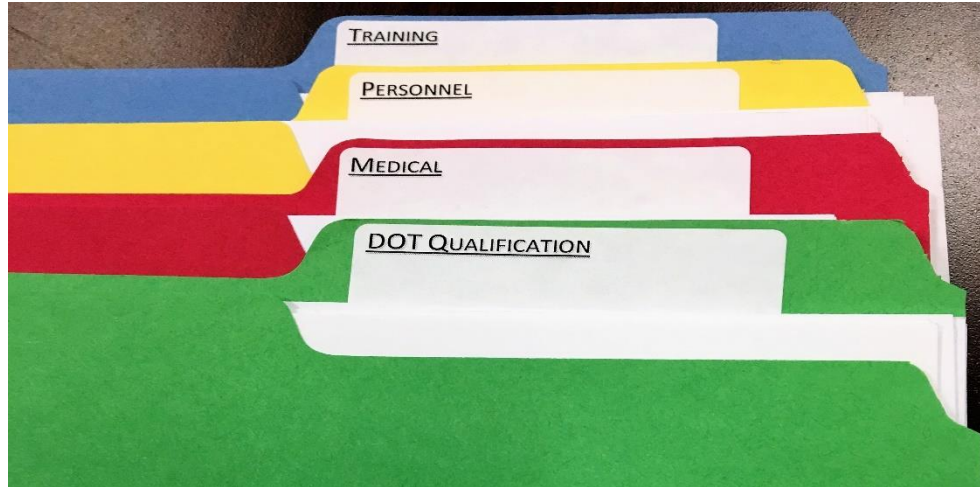


# Monitoring Opportunities





# Monitoring Best Practices Identified



**Mechanic Work Order**

\* Required

**Date \***  
Date  
mm/dd/yyyy

**Time**  
Time  
: AM

**Bus Number \***  
Your answer

**Last 4 Numbers of VIN \***  
Your answer

**Driver Name \***  
Your answer

**Odometer \***



# Opportunities for Improvement

- Pre/post trips
- Maintenance records
- Driver training
- Driver qualification files
- Lack of timely follow up on student discipline
- No written documentation of or standard operating procedures for:
  - Internal monitoring and evaluation
  - Drug testing
  - Vehicle maintenance





Bus #	miles	Oil	Filter #	Water Filter
1	27201	15 QTS	LF 3970	3729
2	33218	15 QTS	LF 3970	WF 2077
3	127388	15 QTS	LF 3970	Good
4	43480	15 QTS	LF 3970	Rear Brake Shoes 4515 4R
5	53321	15 QTS	LF 3970	WF 2077 4 Rear shoes 4R
6	48057	15 QTS	LF 3970	4 New Rear Tires 4R 4R
9	14954	15 QTS	LF 3970	Good
12	31011	15 QTS	LF 3970	Good Rear Shoes #431
14	80745	15 QTS	LF 3970	
15	69287	15 QTS	LF 3970	Front 4719 Rear shoe 4108 ESI
16	110101	15 QTS	LF 3970	
7	142117		Tail Exhaust Pipe	
18	102921	15 QTS	LF 3970	4 Rear shoes 41079

BUS REPAIR ORDER

BUS DRIVER COMPLETE:

DATE: 4-25-14 BUS NUMBER: 12

EXPLAIN BRIEFLY PROBLEM/REPAIR NEEDED: 6-lv For Grille

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BUS DRIVER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ TODAY'S DATE \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

MECHANIC PLEASE COMPLETE: DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NATURE OF PROBLEM/REPAIR NEEDED: \_\_\_\_\_

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CAUSE OF PROBLEM, IF ANY: \_\_\_\_\_

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1. DATE STARTED: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME STARTED: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ENDED: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL TIME TO REPAIR: \_\_\_\_\_

2. PARTS: Grille COST: \$11.97

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3. LABOR: \_\_\_\_\_ COST: \_\_\_\_\_

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TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

MECHANIC'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_



# Requires Collaborative Partnerships

- Drivers do not feel supported
  - Low morale
  - Distracted
  - Bullying, intimidation, and harassment
- Student attendance versus student discipline
  - Lack of funding for bus monitors
  - Lack of trust in reporting student discipline issues
  - Pressure at school level for State Report Card

# Teamwork to Make the Dreamwork

- How do we move from problems-oriented to solutions-oriented?
- How do we *bridge the gap* from the driver referral to district support and action?

In other words, how do we *connect the dots*?

# School Policy and Law

- Student Discipline (required by law)
  - T.C.A. § 49-6-4009 & the Safe and Drug Free School and Communities Act
    - Prohibits disorderly conduct, etc.
    - Requires a student code of conduct that clearly states the responsibilities of students, teachers, and administrators regarding the classroom environment.
- Discipline Procedures
  - T.C.A. § 49-6-4002 to 4005
    - Designed to protect ALL members of the educational community in the exercise of their rights and duties.
- Bus Conduct and Code of Conduct
  - (b) Each code shall state that a teacher, principal, school employee or school bus driver may use reasonable force in compliance with § 49-6-4107.
- Write procedures if policy is not in place.



# School Policy and Law

## ■ Duties and powers

### — T.C.A. § 49-2-203 (a) (7)

- It is the duty of the local board of education to:
  - Suspend, dismiss or alternatively place pupils when the progress, safety or efficiency of the school makes it necessary or when disruptive, threatening or violent students endanger the safety of other students or school system employees.

## ■ Suspension of students

### — T.C.A. § 49-6-3401(a) (9)

- Any administrator of a public school is authorized to suspend a pupil from ...school....or from riding a school bus for good and sufficient reason, including, but not limited to:
  - Assaulting a principal, teachers, school bus driver or other school personnel with vulgar, obscene or threatening language.

# School Policy and Law

- Bus Conduct and Code of Conduct
  - (b) Each code shall state that a teacher, principal, school employee or school bus driver may use reasonable force in compliance with T.C.A. § 49-6-4107.
- **T.C.A. § 49-6-4101. Short title.**
- This part shall be known and may be cited as the "School Discipline Act."
- **T.C.A. § 49-6-4102. Students accountable for conduct.**
- Every teacher is authorized to hold every pupil strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct in school or on the playground of the school, during intermission or recess period or on any school bus going to or returning from school. Every school bus driver is authorized to hold every pupil strictly accountable for any disorderly conduct on any school bus going to or returning from school or a school activity.
- Write Procedures if Policy isn't in place.

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**Next Steps**



# Share Best Practices to Improve Practice

- Presenting at the Tennessee School Board Association
- Work with school administration on student discipline options
- On the department's website
  - Supervisor internal monitoring checklists
  - Driver qualification files checklist
  - Maintenance work orders and record keeping (routine, M30, and M45 samples)
  - Entry level driver training standards and key performance indicators
  - Driver annual performance review checklists

GOAL: To be a model of excellence!

Replicate the pockets of excellence across the state to increase reliability and reduce variance among transportation departments.

# Transportation

Welcome to the Tennessee Department of Education student transportation homepage.

As school buses provide services for students to and from school and school activities, safety remains the department's number one priority. With this in mind, the department is committed to providing all transportation supervisors with high-quality training and necessary resources to ensure that all buses are properly maintained. In addition, all drivers must meet strict licensing requirements, including successful completion of driver training, background checks, and drug and alcohol testing.

Tennessee schools transport approximately 700,000 students a day on approximately 8,700 bus routes in districts and charters across the diverse terrain of city, urban, and rural routes.

The department rules on all waiver requests from public school officials; coordinates the development of new or revised State Board rules and regulations; determines pupil transportation equipment specifications; approves and issues or rejects overload permits; distributes school bus accident, medical examination, and annual statistical report forms to local school districts; collects, compiles and analyzes data from accidents involving school buses; and, allocates pupil transportation funds to local school districts.

> [Best Practices](#)

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> [Contact Information](#)

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> [District Resources](#)

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> [Mission & Vision](#)

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> [Student Transportation Links](#)

# Student Transportation Management Training Program in the Field

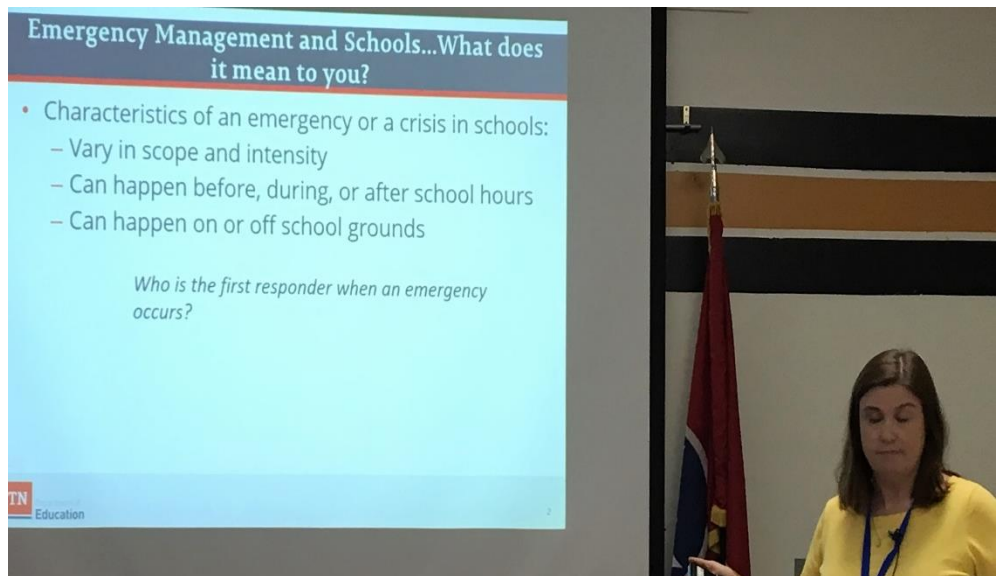
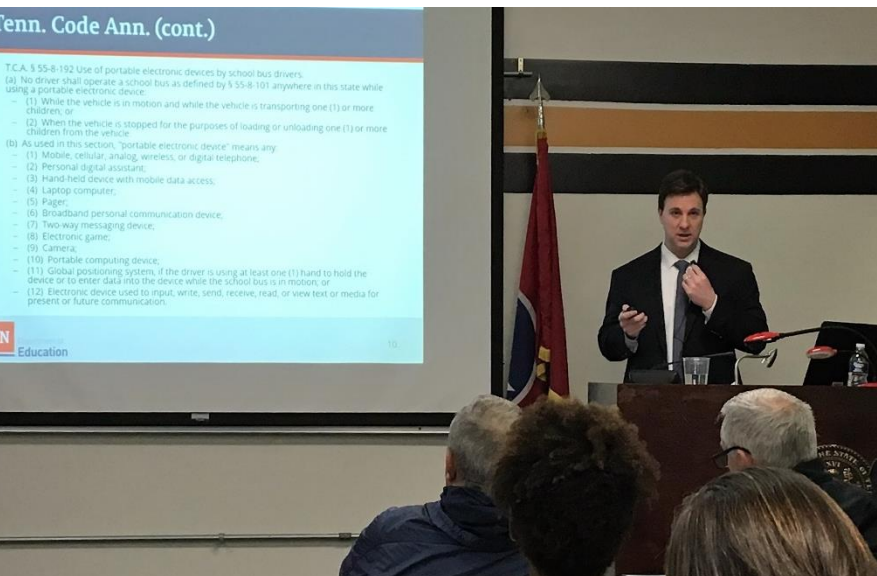
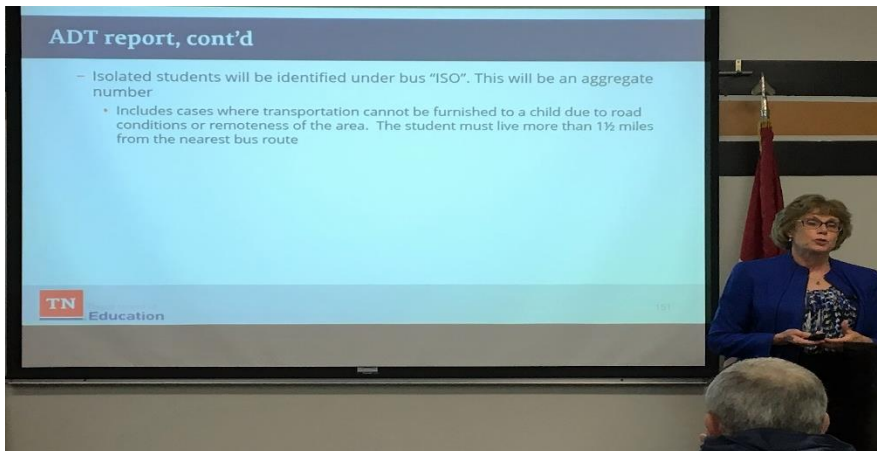
- Coming soon to a region near you





# Student Transportation Management Training Program in the Classroom

## ■ Law, Finance, Routing, Culture, and more



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# **Illegal Passing Survey Results**

# Safety on the Road

- Illegal Passing Survey Results
  - Over 60 districts and charters participated
  - 2,700 drivers participated
  - Buses passed illegally 1,113 times in just one day

Totals	TN					
<u>Time of Day</u> (enter district total for a.m., mid-day, and p.m.)			<u>Passed From</u> (enter district total for front and rear )		<u>Side of Bus</u> (enter district total for left and right side)	
<u>AM</u>	<u>Mid-Day</u>	<u>PM</u>	<u>Front</u>	<u>Rear</u>	<u>Left</u>	<u>Right</u>
484	20	609	867	246	1083	30



The logo for the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TNDOT) features the letters "TN" in a white, bold, serif font, centered within a solid red square. Below the red square is a thin, horizontal dark blue bar.

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# **School Bus Seat Restraint Grant Program**

# Grant Guideline Overview

- \$3 million one-time nonrecurring monies to assist districts and charters with the extra costs associated with equipping buses with seat restraints.
- The grant application was released today to all districts and charters.
- Eligible seat restraints are three-point lap/shoulder belts and/or integrated child restraints.
- No partial bus seat restraint requests are eligible.
- Route buses only. No multi-function activity buses are eligible.

# Grant Guideline Overview

- This is a reimbursable grant with funds drawn down through ePlan. Release of funds requires itemized bill of sale from the OEM indicating additional cost of adding seat restraints on new buses purchased for school year 2018-19 and 2019-20.
- Buses five years old or less (model 2013) are eligible for funding for replacing seat backs with seat restraint assemblies. Reimbursement will require bill of sale after installation, along with inspection by the Tennessee Highway Patrol.
- Participation of contracted services are eligible through the district or charter with appropriate contract language for length of service.



# Grant Program Timeline

- Intent to apply form due **June 29, 2018**
- School bus seat restraint request due **June 29, 2018**
- Policy and/or procedures on annual driver training on the proper use of seat restraint implementation with regard to student management including consequences for noncompliance of the driver and/or students due **Sept. 7, 2018.**
- Policy and/or procedures on annual training for parents and student training on the proper use of seat restraints and implementation with regard to student usage expectations including consequences for noncompliance of the student due on **Sept. 7, 2018.**

INTENT TO APPLY

**School Bus Seat Restraint Grant Program**

\_\_\_\_\_ Option A: Our Agency does **NOT** intend to apply for school bus seat restraint grant program funds.

**Complete PART I only**, and return no later than June 29, 2018 to:

[Tammy.Knipp@tn.gov](mailto:Tammy.Knipp@tn.gov)

\_\_\_\_\_ Option B: Our Agency **DOES** intend to apply for school bus seat restraint grant program funds.

**Complete PART I, II, III, and IV** and return no later than June 29, 2018 to:

[Tammy.Knipp@tn.gov](mailto:Tammy.Knipp@tn.gov)

• Rectangular Snip

<b>PART I.</b> Applicant Agency (name of fiscal agent)	
Director of Agency:	
Address:	
City:	Zip:
Phone: (    )	Email:
<b>PART II.</b> Grant Contact:	
Phone: (    )	Email:
<b>PART III.</b> Fiscal/Bookkeeper Contact:	
Phone: (    )	Email:

## School bus seat restraint request form for new bus purchases (school year 2018-19):

Bus Type	Bus Size - Maximum Capacity (# of seats)	# of three-point belts (lap-shoulder belt)	# of Integrated Child Restraint Systems	# of buses for each type and size
Type A - 2 ≥10,000 lbs. gvwr				
Type C				
Type D				

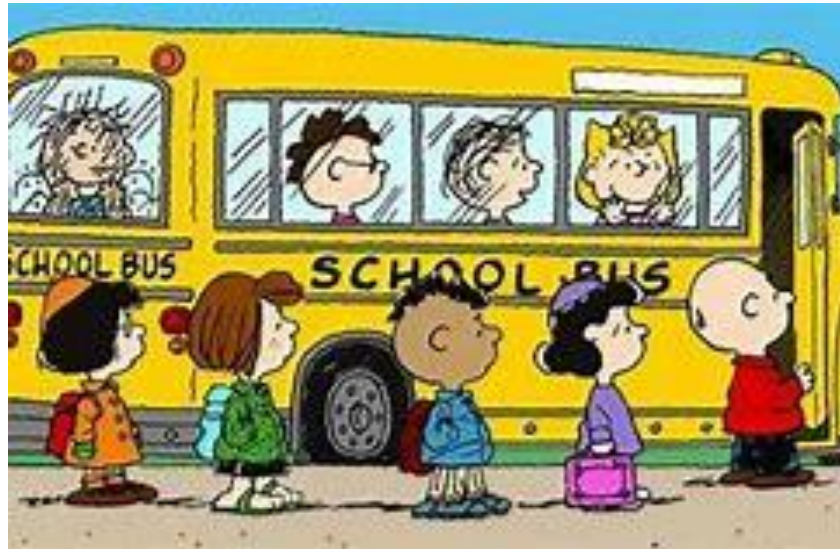


- School bus seat restraint request form for seat replacement assemblies on
- buses in service for five (5) years or less:

Bus Type	Bus Size - Maximum Capacity (# of seats)	# of three- point belts (lap-shoulder belt)	# of Integrated Child Restraint Systems	# of buses for each type and size	Year bus placed in service	Bus Manufact urer
Type A - 2 ≥10,000 lbs. gvwr						
Type C						
Type D						



Questions?

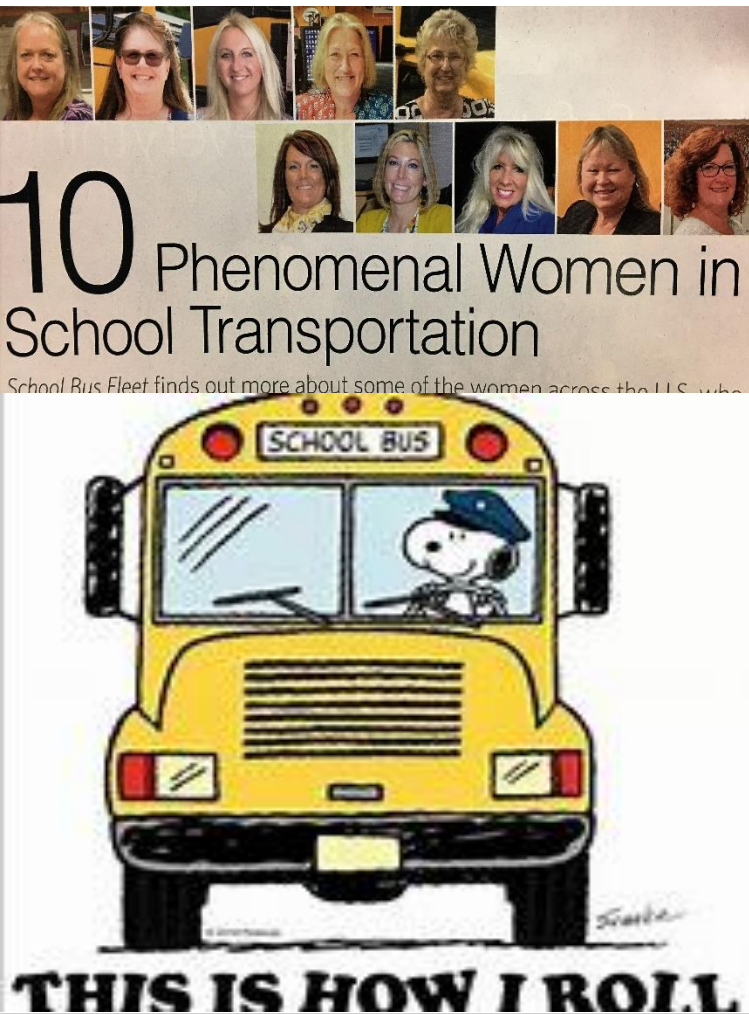


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**Celebrate  
Successes and Share  
our Message**



# Meet the Press



## PHENOMENAL WOMEN



**Melissa Garton**

Transportation Coordinator, Dickson (Tenn.) County Schools

ing all the routing and zoning for our system. Then I went into doing field trips, safety programs, and driver training. Now I oversee 130 employees. I've done just about everything in transportation.

### **What are your top professional achievements?**

Becoming transportation coordinator. I'm also on the advisory board for the Tennessee Association of Pupil Transportation.

### **Have you noticed growth in the number of women working in leadership positions since you started in the industry?**

Over the last 20 years, I've gone to our state and regional meetings, I have seen more women becoming transportation coordinators, directors, and supervisors. We are growing into the organization more. It's not like we're overbounding the men, but I think that we have become more [prominent] than we used to be.

years old. Both of my children are miracle children.

### **What is some of the best advice someone has given you?**

That would be my mother: "Do everything with 110% and you won't have to worry that you didn't do it right the first time."

### **Can you talk about the emergency training events that you hold?**

Last year, we did a mock [emergency] with the whole county. We brought in Tennessee Emergency Medical Services, Life Flight [air medical transport], police departments, and fire departments. We turned one of our retired buses over on a car and had children, who we used as actors, made up to look like they had been hurt. We put [the children] on carts, got them where they needed to go for medical attention. It was something we hadn't done before in our county. It gave all the entities that are working with us the op-



**School Bus Fleet Mag**

@SchoolBusFleet

Follow



Tennessee District Adds Behavior Monitors, Drops Disciplinary Referrals: With five rotating bus monitors, Dickson County Schools is working to improve student behavior, boosting safety for drivers and passengers.

[schoolbusfleet.com/article/729801...](https://schoolbusfleet.com/article/729801...)





# Meet the Press



## School transportation department honored for excellence



Wayl Winningham performs an inspection on a Putnam County school bus.  
Herald-Citizen

October 1, 2017





# You are ALL in my Hall of Fame!





*Districts and schools in Tennessee will exemplify excellence and equity such that all students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to successfully embark on their chosen path in life.*

**Excellence | Optimism | Judgment | Courage | Teamwork**